(October 29) and the Finance Minister (October 27) in Tokyo; Industry Minister Shri Sikander Bakht met the Japanese Minister for Trade and Industry in Tokyo (November 2). Meetings at the official level include: Foreign Secretary level talks in January 1999; Trade Talks (at Commerce Secretary level) in February 1999; and MEA-MITI dialogue (at Secretary level) also in February 1999.

A Japanese Parliamentary delegation led by Deputy Speaker Watanbe (November 1998) and the President of Japan-India Parliamentary Friendship League and former Foreign Minister Dr. Taro Nakoyama (10 March 1999) have visited India. Two economic delegations, one led by the Chairman of the Japan India Business Cooperation Committee and the other led by the Chairman, Japan India Cultural and Economic Exchange Committee, visited India in November-December 1998 and February 1999 respectively.

These exchanges have contributed to better mutual understanding.

Idea of independent Kashmir by Kashmir study group

2540. SHRI V.N. GADGIL: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to newsitem published in Asian Age on 25th February, 1999 that the Kashmir Study Group, a think tank in U.S.A. has floated the idea of independent Kashmir; and

(b) what is the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The Group called the Kashmir Study Group has denied that it has issued any report containing any suggestion of an independent Kashmir. A preliminary paper, reportedly proposed by some members of the group floats such an idea.

Government's views are well known. Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

नेपाल में भारतीय फिल्मों का बहिष्कार

2541. **श्री जनेश्वर मिश्र:** क्या विदेश मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या यह सच है कि "नेशनल मास मूवमेंट" को-आर्डिनेशन कमेटी" ने भारतीय फिल्मों के बहिष्कार का फैसला किया है;

(ख) यदि हां, तो क्या सरकार ने इस संबंध में नेपाल सरकार से बात की है;

(ग) यदि हां, तो तत्संबंधी ब्यौरा क्या है; और

(घ) यदि नहीं, तो इसके क्या कारण हैं?

विदेश मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्रीमती वसुन्धरा राजे): (क) से (घ) सीमित समर्थकों के एक गैर-सरकारी संगठन नेपाल के राष्ट्रीय लोक आन्दोलन समन्वय समिति, ने 15 मार्च, 1999 से चार महीने की अवधि के लिए हिन्दी फिल्मों का बहिष्कार करने की मांग की है। नेपाल की शाही सरकार ने इस बहिष्कार से अपने-आपको न तो सहयोजित किया है और न ही नेपाल में हिन्दी फिल्मों के प्रदर्शन पर प्रतिबन्ध लगाने के लिए कदम उठाने की घोषणा की है। इस बात को ध्यान में रखते हुए इस मामले को नेपाल सरकार के साथ उठाना आवश्यक नहीं समझा गया है।

Bombing at Iraq's military sites by US and UK

2542. SHRIMATI VEENA VERMA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) Whether Government's attention has been drawn to the reported bombing of Iraqi military sites in first week of February, 1999, by US and UK war planes; and

(b) if so, the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Government has consistantly opposed armed action against Iraq as it is counter productive and only aggravates the sufferings of the Iraqi people. The Government of India calls for a diplomatic resolution of all problems relating to Iraq under the auspices of the United Nations.